

Baritone Cristian Ruja is a rising Romanian talent, recognized for his warm, expressive timbre and elegant stage presence. A graduate of both the bachelor's and master's programs at the prestigious National University of Music in Bucharest, he has quickly established himself as a compelling presence on both national and international stages.

In June 2025, Cristian made a remarkable debut as Escamillo in *Carmen* by G. Bizet at Dalles Hall in Bucharest — a performance praised for its vocal strength and commanding charisma. Earlier that year, he debuted as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* by W.A. Mozart, in a concert opera production at Sala Radio.

He has collaborated as a soloist with leading Romanian institutions, including the Bucharest National Opera, the Ion Dacian National Operetta and Musical Theatre, the Radio Orchestras and Choirs, and several regional philharmonics such as Bacău, Craiova, and Ploiești. Internationally, he has worked with the Clyde Opera Group in Glasgow, taking on major roles such as Don Giovanni, Figaro (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Germont, and Gaspar (*Rita*).

At the Bucharest National Opera, Cristian has portrayed important roles including Figaro (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Germont (*La Traviata*), and Melisso (*Alcina* by Handel), the latter as part of a collaboration with the Jerusalem Lyric Opera Studio & Festival.

His vocal-symphonic repertoire showcases his versatility, encompassing works such as Brahms' German Requiem, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Bach's Magnificat, Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*, and Bruckner's Mass No. 3 in F minor.

Cristian has refined his artistry through masterclasses with renowned figures such as Marco Armiliato, David Crescenzi, George Petean, Lucas Meachem, David Bižić, Vesselina Kasarova, and Liora Maurer of the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

His talent has also been recognized in international competitions: he was a participant in the 2024 IVC International Vocal Competition in 's-Hertogenbosch, semifinalist at the 2023 Klaudia Taev Competition in Estonia, and Grand Trophy winner of the "Florica Cristoforeanu" Prize at the 2020 Drumul spre Celebritate International Competition.